

CLAYTON PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
Monday, August 25, 2008
The Center of Clayton - Multipurpose Room A

The following members were present:

Alex Berger	Robert Kerr
Ira Berkowitz	Omri Praiss
Mimi Deem	Eric Schneider
Jessie Hoagland	Mark Winnings
Dick Hyde	

Excused / Absent

Rosemary Hardy

Also present:

Patty DeForrest, Director of Parks and Recreation
Mel Disney

Welcome and Introductions

Six new members joined the Commission and this was the first meeting held with the new members. Ms. DeForrest had everyone introduce themselves and explain why they chose to be a member of the Commission. A phone number and address list was also distributed and will be sent via email to the all members with appropriate corrections.

After member introductions Mr. Mel Disney, a former member of the Hanley House Council, addressed the Commission. He put together a detailed presentation for the Commission. Mr. Disney's presentation was based on the possibility of the City of Clayton Parks and Recreation Department acquiring additional land from the Clayton School District at Maryland School for Hanley Park. During his presentation he showed the Commission a map of the site he felt would be very valuable for the department to purchase and about how it would enhance Hanley Park.

See a copy of the documents used during the presentation for additional details. Please note: The Clayton School District owns Maryland School at this time and the Clayton Child Center has been renting the property for the past 20 years. The property is not for sale as of August 25, 2008.

Approval of the Minutes

The minutes from the April 2008 meeting were approved as read.

Mission: Structure & Protocol of Commission

Ms. DeForrest discussed the Structure and Protocol of the Commission so everyone would know the Commission was established by a charter and why the Commission is such a vital part of what takes place in the Parks and Recreation department. The Commission consists of 7 members and 2 Alderman. In addition, two members may be appointed by the Clayton School District.

Changing the meeting dates and times was discussed during this portion of the meeting. The Commission agreed to explore the possibility of changing the meetings to the first Monday of every month. It was noted that there was a conflict the first Monday in October; therefore the next Parks and Recreation is still scheduled for Monday, September 22. Ms. DeForrest will announce at the next meeting if the change will take place for sure.

Sub committees have been formed in the past for various reasons. For example, these types of committees discussed portions of the Master Plan, so additional Commission meetings did not have to be added to the calendar and to work on items in greater detail. In the future there could be a decrease in the number of meetings if sub committees are formed to discuss various projects.

The following methods of communication are currently in place.

- Packets are sent via email each month
- The City of Clayton has great e-newsletters. It is important to sign-up to receive these because they provide update to date information on an on-going basis.
- All City of Clayton documents, including the Parks and Recreation Master Plan are published online. The City of Clayton's website is www.ci.clayton.mo.us.

The Role of the Commission was revised by the former Commission members. Highlights of the role are:

- Requests from the community will be discussed at meetings
- Recommendations on spending
- The recreation department studies fees and charges each year and will ask the Commission to review the proposed changes and make recommendations to go forward with the plan or propose different adjustments
- Consider changes in reference to policies and procedures
- Bring program ideas to meetings
- Assistance in spearheading other projects
- Consider and approve grant proposals
- Assist in correlating efforts of the School Board
- Discuss and revise goals of the Parks and Recreation department
- Discuss staff reports

(Please see the attached documents distributed during the meeting for additional details about the structure and protocol of the Commission.)

Director's Report

- **Budget Update** - Ms. DeForrest will have a quarterly report for the Commission at the October meeting. She noted that the FY2009-2010 budget is in the final approval stages. The Board of Alderman will review the City of Clayton budget on Tuesday, August 26 and the School Board will review the Center of Clayton budget on Wednesday, August 27.
- **A Look Ahead** - Ms. DeForrest suggested that the Commission member think about how they envision the role of the Commission.

There has been some discussion about having a revolving sculpture in Oak Knoll Park. By the end of the year there will be a new flag at Taylor Park and it will be lit up at night.

- **Master Plan Update** - The following projects are the main focus of the Master Plan.
 - Trail development
 - Inclusive playground - many of our playgrounds are approximately 10 years old and the playgrounds at Shaw Park are not ADA compliant.
 - Playground enhancements
 - Pocket park improvements
 - Ice Rink and Green Space Improvement

Ms. DeForrest distributed an outline of the department showing the indoor and outdoor separation and noting how many employees work in each of the areas.

- **Park Signage** - We are currently working on the final piece of the park signage project. The only sign left to purchase is the one for Shaw Park. The latest design was discussed in detail and the proposed sign is similar to the stone sign at Oak Knoll Park, but would include an electrical display. At the present time, the City of Clayton does not allow other

businesses to use these types of signs. The Commission discussed in detail whether this type of sign would be the best fit for the park. There are approximately 30,000 people in and out of Clayton during the work day that potentially would be viewing a sign of this type. The past discussions also noted this type of sign would correct the current banner display situation which currently does not look very good, at the corner of Brentwood and Forsyth, because at times there are a couple of banners hanging there on metal posts.

After discussing the potential sign the majority of the Commission members felt that a flashy sign may be distracting and would not be the best fit for Shaw Park. This is especially true because if the City were to allow this type of sign other businesses may want to have signs like this one as well. Ms. DeForrest will meet with the sign company again to discuss a new design which could be similar to the one at Oak Knoll Park and could have a feature to hold a couple of banners. The new design sketch will be discussed at the next meeting.

Old Business / New Business

There is no old or new business to report.

Respectfully submitted by:

Denise Ucinski